
Name of Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Type of Organization: Federal Agency

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Project Title: Effects of the Ruffe on Aquatic Biodiversity & Fisheries

Project Category: Exotic Species

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 1

Total Funding Requested (\$): 39,650 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

Abstract:

The Service will coordinate the compilation and analysis of existing data collected from 3 different gear types to determine the status of the fish community in the St. Louis River Estuary, Lake Superior. Products from this analysis will be used to develop ecological theory for fish community resilience in the face of ruffe colonization, and recommend and test means of increasing resilience through fishery and habitat management.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio |

Lakes:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

Geographic Initiatives:

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|

Primary Affected Area of Concern: All AOCs

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Not Applicable

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

The National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force declared the ruffe to be a "nuisance species" in 1992 and authorized the formation of a committee to design and implement a control plan. One of the objectives of the Ruffe Control Plan, approved in 1995, is to "recommend fish management practices that will improve resilience of fish communities against invasion or dominance by ruffe". Analysis of existing ruffe data collected from a preferred Great Lakes site, which would aid in identifying ruffe resilient management practices, has not yet been performed. Accomplishing this objective, is critical in stopping or delaying the spread of ruffe.

Proposed Work Outcome:

Long term monitoring of the fish community in the St. Louis River Estuary has been done by the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, and USGS to include pre-invasion and post-invasion ruffe data. These extensive data sets will be compiled and analyzed to develop a comprehensive analysis of changes in the fish community that occurred after colonization by ruffe. Products from this analysis will be used to develop ecological theory for fish community resilience in the face of ruffe colonization, and recommend and test means of increasing resilience through fishery and habitat management.

Project Milestones:

Project Start

Dates:

06/2000

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Project End

05/2001

☐ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

The results of this project will be used to educate fishery managers on management techniques that will make native fish communities more resilient to invasions by ruffe.

Project Budget:

| | Federal Share Requested (\$) | Applicant's Share (\$) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Personnel: | 29,000 | 0 |
| Fringe: | 0 | 0 |
| Travel: | 2,000 | 0 |
| Equipment: | 1,000 | 0 |
| Supplies: | 500 | 0 |
| Contracts: | 0 | 0 |
| Construction: | 0 | 0 |
| Other: | 0 | 0 |
| Total Direct Costs: | 32,500 | 0 |
| Indirect Costs: | 7,150 | 0 |
| Total: | 39,650 | 0 |
| Projected Income: | 0 | 0 |

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:
